

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

DOT-00 /114 W

----- 091664

R 231529Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7780

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 1005

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MO JA

SUBJECT: GOM PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: RABAT 0796

1. PRIME MINISTER OSMAN ON FEB 20 CONCLUDED A SIX-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN, DURING WHICH HE MET WITH EMPEROR HIROHITO AND JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TAKEO MIKI. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, OSMAN REITERATED THE NEED FOR EXPANDED BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION. REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE BROADENING OF COMMERCIAL CONTACTS, OSMAN DULY NOTED THE POTENTIAL OF THE JAPANESE MARKET, MOROCCO'S PHOSPHATE WEALTH, AND JAPAN'S FERTILIZER NEEDS.

2. TRAVELING WITH OSMAN (IN ADDITION TO HIS WIFE PRINCESS LALLA NEZHA) WERE HASSAN ZEMMOURI, GOM MINISTER OF TOURISM, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND THE NATIONAL FISHERIES DIRECTOR. WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER SMOOTHED

THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE, MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION GOT DOWN TO WORK. DURING THE VISIT, THEY CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT FOR A \$10 MILLION LOAN AT 3.75 PCT OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. THE LOAN WILL BE USED TO FINANCE NEW LOCOMOTIVES FOR THE NATIONAL MOROCCAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

3. IN KEEPING WITH GOM EFFORTS TO BOOST ITS PROFILE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS LAVISHED COVERAGE ON OSMAN'S TRIP. NUMEROUS ARTICLES APPEARED ON JAPAN, INCLUDING TWO COMPLETE PAGES DEVOTED TO ITS ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS. REPRINTING FULL TEXTS OF OSMAN SPEECHES, THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS SKETCHED A ROSY FUTURE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: WHETHER FACTS WILL MATCH EXPECTATIONS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. DISTANCE IS LIKELY TO BE AN INHIBITING FACTOR, BUT JAPANESE INTEREST IN MOROCCO'S RICH FISHERIES AND DEMAND FOR FERTILIZER, PLUS MOROCCO'S NEED FOR TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND CAPITAL PROVIDE STRONG INCENTIVE FOR AN EXPANDED ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP. OSMAN'S JAPAN TRIP IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE ACTIVE ROLE HE HAS BEEN PLAYING ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. DURING RECENT MONTHS, HE HAS MADE SIMILAR, WELL-PUBLICIZED TRIPS TO PARIS AND MADRID. OSMAN FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE GREEN MARCH LAST FALL, LEADING THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF MARCHERS ACROSS THE SAHARA BORDER. AS A RESULT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES, HE HAS DERIVED GREATER EXPOSURE THAN HAS BEEN PERMITTED HIM HERETOFOR.

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## Message Attributes

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